

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for managing data, comprising the steps of:

creating a parameter file that identifies database fields;

establishing a link with at least one database;

importing data from fields in the database that are identified in the parameter file;

grouping the imported data into at least one category;

storing the imported data as records in at least one internal database;

linking the imported data and/or grouping to corresponding earlier stored records and/or groupings, respectively;

selecting at least one category for viewing;

retrieving the records from the selected categories; and

displaying statistical information about the retrieved records by the selected categories in a spreadsheet user interface.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the imported data is linked to corresponding imported data by a tight link.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the imported data is linked to corresponding imported data by a tight link that corresponds to an access number and/or a patent number.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings of the data are chosen by the user.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings are listed in categories named by the user.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein data imported from at least one database provides information about each of the patents or documents cited for a particular patent or group of patents.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising a plurality of internal databases that each stores a predetermined category of imported data.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a said parameter file is created, prior to importation of data, which contains various categories of bibliographic data for an individual record.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data is displayed in a spreadsheet format in accordance with a user's preference selection.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed data can be manipulated by a user in order to view the data most relevant to the user's needs.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the imported data pertains to patents.

13. (Previously Presented) A system for acquiring and presenting data, comprising:

a computer that establishes a link with a database and imports data from fields in the database that are identified in a parameter file,

a memory that stores the imported data in at least one grouping that corresponds to a designated category of data;

an internal parameter that links corresponding data with each other to form a record of data;

a selection component that allows a user to select particular data of a record and the format of the data for display; and

a presentation device that displays statistical information about the selected data in a spreadsheet user interface by designated category.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the imported data is bibliographic data related to patents.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the data is linked by the internal parameter according to access number and/or patent number.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein data may be marked by the user with an indication of priority.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the data imported includes the number of references cited to a patent.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing a program which executes the following steps:

creating a parameter file that identifies database fields;

establishing a link with at least one database;

importing data from fields in the database that are identified in the parameter file;

grouping the imported data into at least one category;

storing the imported data as records in at least one internal database;

linking the imported data to corresponding earlier stored records and/or groupings; and

in response to selection of at least one group for viewing, retrieving the records from the selected group and displaying statistical information about the records by the selected group in a spreadsheet user interface.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further including the steps of:

detecting user selection of a cell in said spreadsheet user interface that contains a statistic about the retrieval records; and

in response to said selection, displaying citation information about the patents represented by said statistic.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said spreadsheet user interface includes a column of descriptions of categories in respective rows.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said statistical information comprises the number of patents in a category represented in a row or column of the spread sheet user interface.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said statistical information comprises the number of patents in a category represented in a row or column of the spread sheet user interface.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each category corresponds to a field of said internal database.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said designated category comprises a field of the database.

27. (New) A method for retrieving and presenting data relating to patents, comprising the following steps:

defining at least one parameter that is based upon bibliographic information pertaining to patents, said parameter being common to a plurality of pre-existing accessible databases;

retrieving patent data from each of a plurality of said pre-existing accessible databases based upon said defined parameter;

importing said retrieved patent data into a user-designated column of an internal database, and selectively (a) merging the patent data retrieved from different ones of said pre-existing accessible databases into the same column of said internal database, or (b) importing the patent data from different ones of said pre-existing accessible databases into respective columns of said internal database, in accordance with a user designation;

determining citations in patents whose data has been imported into said internal database;

retrieving data relating to said determined citations from at least one of said pre-existing accessible databases, and importing said retrieved data into said internal database;

grouping the imported patent data in said internal database into categories based upon at least one field of said bibliographic information;

determining statistical information about the patent data grouped in said categories; and

displaying said categories together with the determined statistical information associated with the said categories.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said statistical information comprises the number of patents in a category.

REMARKS

In lieu of proceeding with an appeal at this time, Applicant is filing this Amendment together with a Request for Continued Examination to place the application in better condition for allowance or to better define the issues for appeal.

The Office Action dated November 27, 2007 maintains the prior rejections of the claims based upon Greash, Keith and Unger patents. In doing so, however, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action has not established that these references disclose all of the claimed subject matter for which they are being relied upon.

For example, claim 1 recites the steps of "establishing a link with at least one database", "importing data from fields in the database ...", and "storing the imported data as records in at least one internal database". Thus, the claim recites at least two distinct databases that are employed in the claimed method, namely a first (external) database with which a link is established and from which the data is imported, and a second (internal) database into which the data is imported. The Office Action does not identify where any of the cited references disclose this claimed combination of features. At best, it only makes a general reference to Figure 1 of the Greash patent (page 3 of the Office Action). However, there is nothing in the figure that illustrates the importation of data from one database into another database. Although the personal computer shown in this figure is depicted as having the ability to communicate with a remote computer via a local or wide-area network, there is no teaching that different databases are respectively associated with these two computers, let alone that data from one is imported into the other. The Greash patent is only concerned with how to display data in a database (singular), and not with how the information is obtained and stored in the database for presentation to the user.

Another feature recited in claim is "grouping the imported data into at least one category", "selecting at least one category for viewing", "retrieving the records from the selected categories", and "displaying statistical information about the retrieved records by the selected categories ..." As far as the recitation of grouping the data into a category is concerned, the Office Action again only makes a general